CHAPTER 2

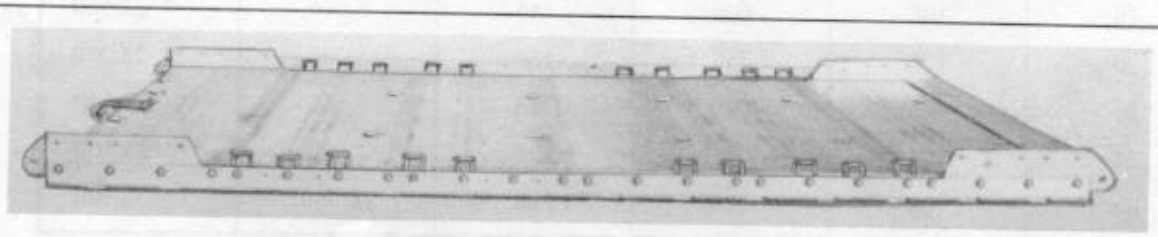
RIGGING INFORMATION

Section I

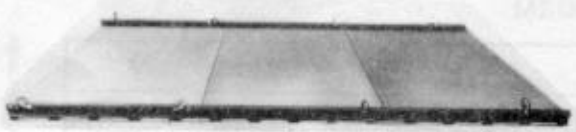
AIRDROP PLATFORMS

2-1. Use

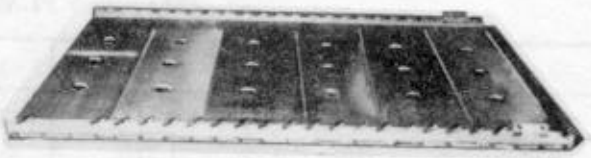
Airdrop platforms, as shown in Figure 2-1, serve as the base on which supplies and equipment are restrained. These platforms also support the load during the extraction, parachute deployment, and recovery phases. They also spread the shock of ground impact. Limitations for type II modular, type V, and LAPE modular airdrop platforms are listed in Table 2-1.



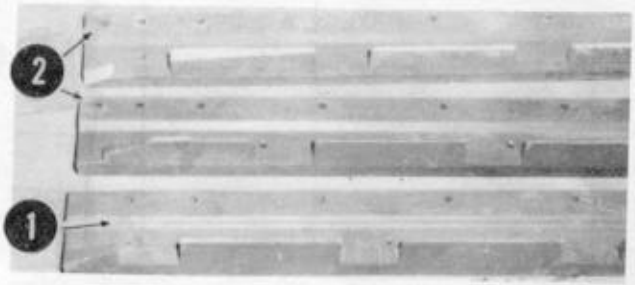
TYPE V AIRDROP PLATFORM



TYPE II MODULAR AIRDROP PLATFORM



LAPE MODULAR AIRDROP PLATFORM

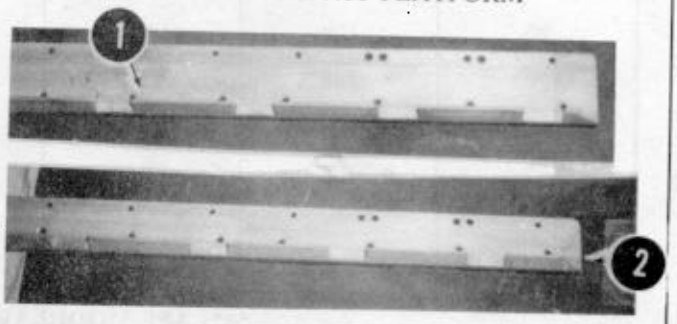


TYPE II MODULAR AIRDROP PLATFORM
SIDE RAILS

(1) The new rail has plain ends.

(2) The old rail has either a beveled or plain hole 1 inch from each end of the rail.

Note: These holes must not be used.



LAPE MODULAR AIRDROP PLATFORM
SIDE RAILS

(1) The 5 1/2-inch high-profile rail is the older rail. This rail may be used until supplies are exhausted, unless the rigging manual indicates the use of a low-profile rail.

(2) The 4 1/8-inch low-profile rail is the newer rail.

Figure 2-1. Airdrop platforms

Table 2-1. Limitations for type II modular, type V, and LAPE modular airdrop platforms

Length (Feet)	Width (Inches)	Weight (Pounds)	Platform Surface (Square Feet)	*Minimum Rigged Weight (Pounds)	Maximum Rigged Weight (Pounds)
TYPE II MODULAR PLATFORM					
8	108	300	72	2,520	**10,000
12	108	450	108	3,780	**16,250
16	108	600	144	5,040	**22,500
20	108	750	180	6,300	28,750
24	108	900	216	7,560	****38,500
28	108	1,064	252	8,820	****38,500
32	108	1,214	288	10,080	****38,500
***TYPE V PLATFORM					
				LV	LAPE
8	108	820	72	2,520	NA	15,000
12	108	1,220	108	3,780	6,700	21,000
16	108	1,590	144	5,040	6,700	28,000
20	108	1,950	180	6,300	6,700	39,000
24	108	2,280	216	7,560	7,560	52,000
28	108	2,820	252	8,820	8,820	****60,000
32	108	3,056	288	10,080	10,080	****60,000
***LAPE MODULAR PLATFORM					
8	108	628	72	2,520	**10,000
12	108	1,092	108	3,780	**18,000
16	108	1,456	144	5,040	**24,000
20	108	1,820	180	6,300	30,000
24	108	2,184	216	7,560	****36,000

* Minimum rigged weight for extraction purposes. Loads weighing less than 3,500 pounds and rigged for airdrop from a C-141 aircraft MUST be rigged for platform extraction.

** The weights are for item-suspended loads and do not include the weight of the recovery parachute. When loads are platform suspended, a modular platform will have a weight limitation of no more than

4,000 pounds with a 3/4-inch plywood load spreader and no more than 8,000 pounds with a strongback load spreader. When authorized, the 12- and 16-foot platforms with strongback load spreaders have an emergency overload suspended weight of up to 12,000 pounds.

*** This platform is used for LAPE and low-velocity airdrops.

**** Platform load weights for C-130 aircraft (with an aircraft serial number of 62-1783 or lower) are restricted to 25,000 pounds. For aircraft with an aircraft serial number of 62-1784 or higher, the weight restriction is 42,000 pounds. MC-130 Combat Talon loads are restricted to 35,000 pounds. Single and combined platform lengths are restricted to 28 feet for the MC-130E Combat Talon I aircraft. C-141 aircraft loads are restricted to 38,500 pounds. During contingency (wartime) operations, with Air Force approval, the maximum platform weight airdropped from the C-141 aircraft may be increased to 42,000 pounds. C-5 and C-17 aircraft loads may be increased to 60,000 pounds.

*Table 2-1.1 Minimum and maximum rigged weights for the type V platform when dropping from a **C-17 aircraft***

C-17 Aircraft

Length (feet)	Minimum Rigged Weight (Pounds)	Maximum Rigged Weight (Pounds)
8	2,520	10,000
12	3,780	18,500
16	5,040	27,700
20	6,300	39,000
24	7,560	52,000
28	8,820	60,000
32	10,080	60,000

2-2. Platform Limitations for Aircraft

Cargo and transport aircraft are specifically designed to deliver supplies and equipment by airdrop and are employed in airborne operations. Aircraft limitations are described below.

a. Hercules (C-130). Platform loads are generally restricted to a height of 100 inches (measured from the bottom of the platform) and weight of 25,000 pounds for aircraft with an aircraft serial number of 62-1783 or lower. For aircraft with an aircraft serial number of 62-1784 or higher, the weight restriction is 42,000 pounds. When the A/A37A-11 tow plate is utilized for Drogue Extraction System (DES) airdrops, the extraction/drogue parachute requirements given in Table 2-8.1 will apply.

b. Starlifter (C-141). Platform loads are generally restricted to a height of 100 inches (measured from the bottom of the platform) and a weight of 38,500 pounds. During contingency (wartime) operations, with Air Force approval, the maximum platform weight may be increased to 42,000 pounds. For multiple platforms, up to 70,000 pounds of airdrop load may be airdropped.

c. Galaxy (C-5). Platforms are generally restricted to a height of 105 inches (measured from the bottom of the platform) and a weight of 60,000 pounds. For multiple platforms, up to 200,000 pounds of airdrop load may be airdropped. All loads certified for low-velocity airdrop from C-130 and C-141 aircraft may be airdropped from C-5 aircraft, if rigged on a Type V platform.

d. Combat Talon (MC-130E Combat Talon I and MC-130 Combat Talon II). Platform loads are generally restricted to a height of 100 inches (measured from the bottom of the platform) and a weight of 35,000 pounds. Single and combined platform lengths are restricted to 28 feet for the MC-130E Combat Talon I aircraft. The primary method of extraction of low-velocity airdrop platforms uses a A/A37A-11 (LAPES) tow plate. Combat Talon aircraft are capable of dropping low-velocity platform loads using the same extraction configurations as the C-130 aircraft when LAPE components are not available. Extraction/drogue parachute requirements for platform extraction using the A/A37A-11 (LAPES) tow plate are given in Table 2-8.1.

e. Globemaster (C-17). Platform loads are generally restricted to a weight of 60,000 pounds. For multiple platforms, up to 110,000 pounds of airdrop load may be airdropped. Loads certified for low-velocity airdrop from C-130, C-141, and C-5 aircraft that meet the limitations in Table 2-1.1 may be airdropped from the C-17 aircraft, if rigged on a Type V platform.

2-3. Type V Airdrop Platform

The type V airdrop platform (hereafter called the type V platform) is used for both low-velocity and LAPE airdrops. The type V platform can be assembled in 8-, 12-, 16-, 20-, 24-, 28-, and 32-foot lengths. The assembled platform is 108 inches wide. A detailed description of this platform is in TM 10-1670-268-20&P/TO 13C7-52-22. When this platform is used for low-velocity loads, the nose bumper may be removed.

2-4. Type II Modular Airdrop Platform

The type II modular platform (hereafter called the type II platform) shown in Figure 2-1 can be assembled in the field in 8-, 12-, 16-, 20-, and 24-foot lengths. The assembled platform is 108 inches wide. The platform may be spliced to make 28- and 32-foot platforms for use in FM 10-500/TO 13C7-series rigging manuals. A detailed description of this platform is in TM 10-1670-208-20&P/TO 13C7-4-12.

2-5. LAPE Modular Airdrop Platform

The LAPE modular airdrop platform (hereafter called the LAPE platform) shown in Figure 2-1 can be assembled in 8-, 12-, 16-, 20-, and 24-foot lengths. The assembled platform is 108 inches wide. A detailed description of this platform is in TM 10-1670-208-20&P/TO 13C3-4-12. Although this platform is used mainly for LAPE loads, it may also be used for low-velocity loads. When the platform is used to airdrop low-velocity loads, the nose bumper, skids, and bridle plates are not needed.